



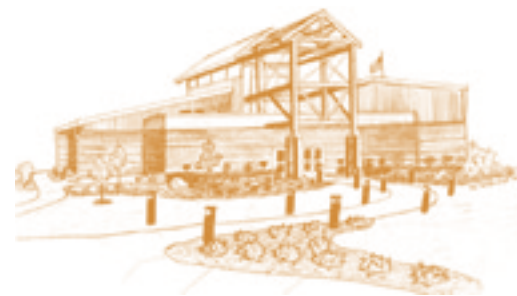
Creatures of the Night

Friday, October 20
7:00-9:00pm

see program details inside

Tupelo Times
Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus
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Tupelo Times

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2006 VOL. 2, NO. 4

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation** Nature Center

TALES OF A FIRST TIME HUNTER

I've always been in love with the outdoors, but I had never been hunting. After starting my job with the Department of Conservation in May, I decided that I should learn more about hunting in order to answer questions and understand why people would sit outside in chilly temperatures before the sun came up.

I was introduced to Conservation Agent, Mic Plunkett, who has taken several people on their first-time hunts and organizes hunting clinics for women. After teaching me how to shoot, he made sure I was prepared for my first deer hunt.

On November 18, we met at his farm very early in the morning. Mic guided me to a stand with a view of a small creek. The sun came up, and I found entertainment watching the wood ducks. I heard leaves rustling a few times and saw some movement, but birds and squirrels were the culprits.

With no luck that morning, we trudged through mud to a new spot after lunch. We didn't even have time to set my blind up, because Mic spotted two deer. He had told me to load the chamber just in case we saw any deer, which turned out to be a good idea. I had never shot a gun without something to rest it on. Knowing this, Mic crouched down and told me to rest my gun on his shoulder. I gave him an "Are you crazy?" look and placed the gun on his shoulder, while he stuck his fingers in his ears. As I waited, my heart began to beat faster. A clear view presented itself, so I shot the deer in the shoulder, and it took off running. Mic assured me that I had gotten it and gave me a high five. We had to search for ten minutes to find it.

I was happy with my success of shooting my first deer and posed for a few pictures. Since I'd had a great time and saw lots of ducks that day, Mic invited me to go duck hunting with him in December.

A month later, Mic and I trudged out into his flooded field and set up duck decoys. Within the first ten minutes of shooting time, Mic announced that there were three ducks flying from the left. I got into position, aimed, and shot the middle duck. The duck landed on the ice 30 yards from the blind. Mic looked at me in disbelief and said, "I thought you had never done this before." Neither of us could believe that I shot a duck on my first shot. Pleased with a female gadwall, I posed for a few pictures with the brilliant colors of sunrise still present.

My beginner's luck ran out, since I shot seven more times unsuccessfully that morning. Although I was somewhat discouraged, I was perfectly content observing the sights around me. Mic shot two mallards that day and taught me how to identify the ducks as they flew over. As the hours of daylight came to an end, we walked back out with our eyes to the sky. It was a great day, even though my chest waders had a leak.

I may not become a serious hunter, but my first hunts won't be my last. In fact, I'm signed up for a Missouri's Outdoor Women Waterfowl Hunting Clinic at Duck Creek. If any of you gals are interested in hunting, I think you should come give it a shot. I know you'll enjoy the clinic because Mic is a great teacher. To register see the information below and tell him Sara sent you!

Sara Scheper, Education Specialist



Questions? Contact:
Mic Plunkett at 573/495-2737 or
Mic.Plunkett@mdc.mo.gov

Missouri's Outdoor Women Waterfowl Hunting Clinic

October 8, 2006 and December 2, 2006

Duck Creek Conservation Area
Registration deadline Sept. 22



Serving nature and you™

A new class of volunteers brings promise for the nature center's second year. After attending 26 hours of training on everything from history of the Missouri Department of Conservation to the ecology of Southeast Missouri, these six volunteers graduated August 3rd, prepared to serve the public and represent the Department. We look forward to the many talents and skills they bring. Whether you meet them along the trail, at the front desk, or at a program, please be sure to thank them for their time and commitment of service.



(l to r) Mary Jane Fieser, Sue Corvick, Rachael Miesner, Omayra Hayward, Madeleine VanDeVen, Pat Wells

Volunteer Milestones

200 Hours of Service

**Fred Bollinger
Phil Dodson
Kelly Hughes**

300 Hours of Service

Charlie Wilson

Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Campus walkway:
Nature Center Interpretive Staff
Friends of AJ Hendershott
Orthopaedic Associates
Pat & Gene Haenni

Thank You

Donations of Time, Material, and Service

Ken Ruff: Clay bird house & feeder

Liana Jenkins: "Fabulous Wetlands" video

Various natural objects:

John Schreiner, Shawn Bohnert,

Elaine Richardson, Verna Stovall, Gary Seib

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm and is closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape

Educators' Niche

Upcoming Workshops

Conservation SEEDS Training

Conservation SEEDs is a wonderful curriculum that was developed for Pre-K through 2nd grade students. This is an incredibly user friendly curriculum that incorporates different learning stations. Lessons are divided into seasonal groupings. All lessons are conservation related but they cover a broad topic range within conservation, everything from amphibians to weather. This is a free training for early childhood educators. The workshop will take place on October 28 at the Nature Center from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. For more information, or to register call Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5858 ext. 300. Class size is limited to 25 people, so enroll early. Registration ends Oct. 14.

COMING SOON.....Field Trip and Outdoor Classroom Grant Opportunities!

Studies have shown that some children learn better outside a traditional classroom. In an age of advanced and economical technology, children and adults are losing their connection to the land. Increased gas prices compound the problem by making it difficult for both schools and parents to take their children on educational outdoors field trips. This is where the Conservation Department can help. Once again, we are offering the Field Trip Grant and the Outdoor Classroom Grant. Who's eligible? Missouri K-12 educators in public, private, and parochial schools, and home school groups are eligible for the Field Trip Grant. Any Pre-K through 12 grade public, private, parochial school, or district in Missouri is eligible for the Outdoor Classroom Grant. For more information, please contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5858 ext 300 or see our website at www.missouriconservation.org.

The Nature Shop

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

Special monthly discounts ... **20% Off**
(Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)

NOVEMBER

Show-Me Bugs

An uncommonly colorful guide to 50 common bugs in Missouri. Show-Me Bugs! introduces you to Missouri's most fascinating and most ecologically important wildlife. Use it to get to know some of the little creatures that help make the Show-Me state a naturally beautiful place to live.



Discounted price:
\$6.36 plus tax

OCTOBER

Trees of Missouri Field Guide

Based on Don Kurz's original *Trees of Missouri*, this concise, easy-to-carry field guide will help you identify trees in your yard, neighborhood or natural area.

- 174 species described
- Range map for each species
- Full-color illustrations
- Easy-to-understand descriptions



Discounted price:
\$6.00 plus tax

MDC 2006 Hunting Seasons & Limits



For a complete list please visit
www.missouriconservation.org



Deer Antlerless: Dec 9-Dec 17 Permits and regulations available in July
Deer Archery: Sep 15- Nov 10 Permits and regulations available in July
Deer Archery: Nov 22-Jan 15 Permits and regulations available in July
Deer Firearms: Nov 11-Nov 21 Permits and regulations available in July
Deer Muzzleloader: Nov 24-Dec 3 Permits and regulations available in July
Deer Urban: Oct 6-Oct 9 Permits and regulations available in July
Deer Youth: Oct 28-Oct 29 Permits and regulations available in July
Mourning Doves: Sep 1-Nov 9 Bag limit: 12 daily, 24 possession
Pheasant Southern Zone: Dec 1- Dec 12 See Wildlife Code
Pheasants Northern Zone: Nov 1- Jan 15, 2007 See Wildlife Code
Quail: Nov 1-Jan 15, 2007 Bag limit: 8 daily, 16 possession
Rabbit: Oct 1-Feb 15 6 bag limit, 12 possession limit (No more than 2 / 4 swamp rabbits)
Turkey Archery: Sep 15- Nov 10 Permits and regulations available in July
Turkey Archery: Nov 22-Jan 15, 2007 Permits and regulations available in July
Turkey Fall Firearms: Oct 1-Oct 31 Permits and regulations available in July



October Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **October 1 (12-5pm)** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

1 Naturalist's Notebook Sunday, 2-3pm

On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail. Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. **All ages.** No registration required.



3 Conservation Vegetation Management with Herbicides Tuesday, 7-9pm

October is a good month for private land owners to kill exotic species and conduct habitat manipulation with herbicides. Come share the evening with Natural History Biologist, Bob Gillespie, to learn the best management techniques for controlling vegetation and herbicides to use to accomplish this task. **Ages 12 and up.** Registration required, begins September 15



6 Hunter Education Friday, 5:30-9:30pm Saturday, 8am-3pm

This 10-hour hunter education certification course is required for anyone born January 1, 1967, or after, who wants to hunt with a firearm in Missouri. The class is open to ages 11 and up. Youth 12 and under must have an adult accompany them. All students 15 and under must bring proof of age. This course begins on Thursday evening and continues on Saturday. You must attend **both days** and pass a test to receive certification. Pre-registration required by calling the Southeast Regional Office at 573-290-5730.



King of the Forest Tuesday, October 10 6:30-8pm

It is a fact of life; certain animals must eat other animals to survive. The interaction between these predators and their prey is one of the wild's most spectacular events. Explore this dangerous world and how some of Missouri's top predators stalk, deceive and outmaneuver their victim. Also, learn skills that many prey animals use to elude their attackers. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11.

Registration required, begins October 1

Temporary Display

Visit the nature center's gallery during the month of October to view the photo contest entries entitled "Mingo Swamp Flora and Fauna" on loan from the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and the Mingo Swamp Friends Association.



Mudpuppies

Spider Spy Saturday, October 14 10am, 1pm or 3pm Tuesday, October 24 10am or 1pm

Spooky Spiders? I don't think so. Many folks think spiders are creepy and don't like to have them around. Spiders amaze us as they spin their webs to catch a meal and seek a dark retreat to spend their day. We will get to take a close-up look at some of our eight-legged companions and learn which ones we really need to look out for. Be prepared to make and take your own spider pal home. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month.

Registration required, begins October 1

14 "Adults Only" Fall Float Sunday, 8-5pm



It's mid October and fall colors should be at their peak. Come enjoy the day as we canoe a section of southeast Missouri's scenic riverways while exploring nature's beautiful fall colors. Interested parties should have previous knowledge of canoeing basics. Flotation devices are required and will be provided. Pack a lunch and dress appropriately to enjoy this fall float.

Ages 18-adult.

Registration required, begins October 1

15 Nature and the Arts Saturday, 1-4pm

Come visit the nature center on this wonder fall afternoon to be inspired by the artists that have a love for nature and have some interesting ways of incorporating it into their work. Listen to music and watch as these talented people demonstrate and display their craft. **All ages.** No registration required.



20 Creatures of the Night Friday, 7-9pm

You step out into the night unsure of what surrounds you. The cool wind brushes past as the hair on your neck stiffens. The hoot of an owl or cry of a coyote makes you turn in fright. What exactly is lurking around the next corner? Take a chilling walk down the White Oak Trace and be entertained by some of nature's nighttime creatures. Discover which animals prowl after dusk and find out that many of them are more beneficial than you thought. Guided tours will leave every 15 minutes throughout the evening. Hike will follow the ADA accessible section of the trail. **All ages. Youth groups welcome.** No registration required.



RACERS

Raving about Caving Saturday, October 21

8am-Noon

Come explore one of the many caves in Perry County, Missouri, with experienced cavers who will help you take advantage of everything that the cool, dark, and damp environment has to offer. We may see bats, salamanders, fish, and other critters that aren't afraid of the dark – they actually thrive in it. The nature center will provide transportation, helmets, and a head lamp. Participants should wear clothing that can get dirty and eat a good breakfast (food is not allowed in the cave). Remember to bring two flashlights with fresh batteries, sturdy boots/shoes, backpack, an extra change of clothes, and knee/elbow pads (optional). Space is limited. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17.

Registration required, begins October 1

21 Intro to Nature Photography Saturday, 9am-2pm



Join Volunteer Charlie Wilson for a beginning photography course with pointers on getting close to nature using your camera. Start the morning out with an indoor session on the

elements of good photography and finish the afternoon with a photography field experience. Bring a sack lunch and your camera equipment. **Ages 14 - adult.** Registration required.

Tadpoles



Colors All Around Saturday, October 21 10-11am

Join volunteers, Joan Anderson and Carolyn Sarff, for a guided nature stroll along the White Oak Trace to experience the bright colors of autumn. See the rich yellow, orange, and red colors of fall. Catch your last glance of the fading green color of summer. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult.

Registration required, begins October 1

22 "Close to Home" Sunday, 1-2pm

Join us for a presentation and discussion on Missouri Conservation Areas to visit within an hour's drive of Cape Girardeau. We will have maps and brochures available as we discuss some of the unique landscapes worth adventuring into that are "Close to Home." **Ages 8-adult.** Registration required.



Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center front desk to find out what videos will be shown this month.



November Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **November 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

4 Scoutin' Around Saturday, 10am-4pm

Attention Scouts in first – sixth grades! Join us for another day of Scoutin' Around, where we'll focus on badges related to outdoor skills, forestry, and plants. Hikes, discovery tables, and career information will be offered to help connect you with the land and assist you in meeting your goals. For a list of the badge requirements that will be covered, contact the nature center or your local scout service center for a flier.

Youth groups welcome.

Registration required, begins September 5

5 Naturalist's Notebook Sunday, 2-3pm

On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail. Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. All ages. No registration required.



RACERS On the Boardwalk Sunday, November 5 1-5pm

Join us for an up-close look at one of the coolest places in southeast Missouri, Big Oak Tree State Park, a National Natural Landmark. The park contains a boardwalk trail that traverses through cypress trees and several state champion trees just above the soil and swamp that they are rooted in. The trail and small lake is a great place to see 150 different species of birds, most of which are considered rare. Bring a water bottle and wear comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars will be provided. Registration required. Racers programs are designed for teens ages 12-17.

Registration required, begins November 1

7 Timber Sales Tuesday, 7-9pm

Share the evening with Forestry Regional Supervisor, Joe Garvey, as he answers questions about timber sales for private land owners. During this program he will discuss how to sell trees, how to select the right trees to cut, how to find a logger, whether or not to have a contract, about taxes on your income, and what to do after the harvest is over. Ages 12 and up. Registration required.



Tadpoles

Change Is in the Air Saturday, November 11 10-11am

The leaves have fallen and animals are beginning to prepare for winter. Join volunteers, Joan Anderson and Carolyn Sarff, for a guided nature stroll to see what changes are happening outside. Tadpoles programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult.

Registration required, begins November 1



It's a Pioneer's Life for Me Tuesday, November 14 6:30-8pm

Sometimes growing up in the good old days is not as fun as it sounds. With the push westward, Missouri was a prime spot for pioneers looking for new homes. While the swamps of Southeast Missouri did not offer shelter, the rolling hills of the Ozarks and the open prairies that surrounded were great for these new homesteads. Often these pioneer's days were long and filled with chores for every member of the household. Learn more about this big boom West and how it changed Southeast Missouri. Snappers programs are designed for kids ages 7-11.

Registration required, begins November 1



Mudpuppies

Night Owls

Saturday, November 18
10am, 1pm or 3pm
Tuesday, November 28
10am or 1pm

Listen closely... Who's there? On silent wings, an owl stalks its prey through the woods. We will have a chance to look at the four owls that call southeast Missouri home, learn what was for dinner, and see what amazing tools an owl has to survive in our backyards. Mudpuppies programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month.

Registration required, begins November 1

17 Conservation Café Friday, 6:30-8pm

The wonders of Wildlife Artist Mark Raithel have graced the pages of the Missouri Conservationist and inspired many who enjoy the outdoors. With 15 years experience with the Conservation Department, he has created murals, educational posters, book illustrations, 3-dimensional exhibits, and many pieces demonstrating the natural wonders of Missouri. Refreshments will be served as guests hear inspiring stories from Mark, learn artistic skills, and get to know this man behind the conservation canvas. Ages 12 and up. Registration required.



Featured Films

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Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center
front desk to find out
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18 "Adults Only" Hawn Hike Saturday, 9am-2pm

Want to enjoy a brisk fall hike? Then come along with us as we visit Hawn State Park and tackle one the trails. This is a great time of year to see through the woods and possibly catch a glimpse of deer and other wildlife that might otherwise be missed during the summer months. This hike is rated moderate to difficult because of rough terrain and steep inclines. Pack a lunch and a few munchies for this hiking adventure. Pre-registration is required. Ages 18-adult.



24 Long, Long Ago... Friday, 10am-4pm

As Europeans were first coming to this part of the country, life was very different. No stores existed so the people had to make their own tools for their daily life. Try your hand at making a cordage wristband, and then imagine the time it would take to make a 20 foot net. Watch nature center volunteer, Fred Bollinger, as he demonstrates the ancient art of flint knapping. Explore a table of "Tools of the Trade" to discover what was used for hunting, fishing and gardening. Stop by the lab to discover the wildlife species once abundant when Lewis and Clark made their first exploration through Missouri. Activity stations are ongoing throughout the day. All ages. Youth groups are welcome. No registration required.



Tree seedling order forms are available mid-November.



PLANNING AHEAD...December

Nature Shop Sale December 21-22

20% off all Nature Shop items. Last minute holiday shopping got you down? Take a break from the hustle and bustle and visit the nature center on these two days and take advantage of the holiday discount. Heritage card discount does not apply.



Winter Hike

Thursday, December 21, 6:30-8:30pm

What a better way to warm up when the temperature dips outside than to bundle up and take an invigorating journey on White Oak Trace. The Nature Shop will be open this evening.



GPS Nuts & Bolts

Another GPS course will be offered in the Dec/Jan newsletter. Watch for more details.

Temporary Display

Visit the nature center's gallery during the month of November to view the artwork of Missouri Department of Conservation artist, Mark Raithel.